

Editorial/Comments/Etc.

Taking a second look at the events of 1989

By Liz Mendez

Come along for a stroll down memory lane through the pages of the Poquoson Island Times. While we can't include everybody and everything, we hope you'll enjoy this recap of 1989.

Early January predictions, taxwise, were up and down. From 18 cents to 15 cents to the 13-cent increase recommended by City Manager Robert Murphy. By the time the budget was approved in May, the real estate tax rate increase had been reduced to five cents, 96-cents per \$100, and the city had adopted a new four percent meals tax.

The Poquoson High School Tidewater Challenge team won the overall academic cham-

pionship in a match against Hampton. It was the fifth time, out of seven seasons, that Poquoson had come out on top. Later in the year, the team came in sixth in worldwide competition. Members of the 89-90 team were Michele Kolet, captain, Matt Morris, Shannon Fay and Shane Murray.

Throughout the year, we read about the varied activities in which Poquoson people engage. For instance, we have marathon runners: George Fenigsohn, Charlie Flynn, Bryce Jenkins, Jim Johnson, Matt Husson, Bill Moore, Ted Roush, Steve Schouk and Ron Sheeley.

In January, Petey Husson initiated "VIP's" spotlighting Poquoson volunteers.

Ami VanDeventer was the overall winner in the Poquoson science fair. Second place went to Traci Silcox.

City Council, after months of work, rejected a proposed Major/Minor Subdivision Ordinance designed to regulate subdivision of property. But read on, the issue came up again later in the year.

Weather is always a good subject. It rained a lot in January, as evidenced by a front page photo of Bill Crawford and Phil Lowe rowing a boat in the Moore Building parking lot.

The Poquoson Island Players presented Agatha Christie's Ten Little Indians under the direction of Dott VanDervort with Janet Brown, producer, and Paul Brown, stage manager.

The School Board learned that construction of the primary school was a little behind schedule, but that the building would be ready for

occupancy in September.

Two bodies were found in a clearing off Victory Boulevard in January. No motive was known for the murders.

Poquoson High School golfer Craig Merrill was honored by the Peninsula Sports Club on January 23.

Chris Christman, a local waterman and history buff, spoke to several PHS classes and displayed his collection of Civil War relics.

Bill Shaw was elected Commodore of the Poquoson Yacht Club, and Mary Cline assumed the presidency of the Poquoson Woman's Club. Jean Curtis was the new president of the Islander Garden Club, and Nancy Pierce was installed as president of the Calligraphers Guild of the Peninsula.

The city contracted with Hampton to use the steam plant for garbage disposal. Poquoson also started a program for collection of gardening debris and bulky items.

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics awarded NASA Langley Research Center manager Dr. James D. Lawrence, Jr., the 1989 Losey Atmospheric Sciences Award.

"Earthly Pursuits," a gardening column, blossomed on the pages of the Island Times during 1989.

Poquoson wrestlers dominated the Region I tournament in February, and Jon Check, Bubba Ferguson and Robert Henesey won state AA titles.

The gymnastics team won the regional championship and came in third at the state level.

Jessie Fay Forrest's column, My "New Pocosin," first appeared in February. Mrs. Forrest's stories about Poquoson's colorful past continue to delight our readers.

The PHS basketball team ended the season with a hard fought win over Mathews.

In February, our own Joy
Continued on page 7

Voice of the People

Dear Editor,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those brave bodies who supported the Christmas Parade and Marketplace last Saturday. Regardless of the cold weather, the parade had 96 units, and the parade looked great!

Thank you to the folks at the Poquoson Fire Department, spear headed by Greg Dryden, for their help with the stage area, the electricity wiring and even the fireboat for Santa to ride in.

To all the units in the parade, and to all their coordinators and leaders, thank you for going the extra mile and gambling on the weather with me. You were super people to work with!

My hat's off to Freeman's Florist for decorating Santa Land, to Emmaus Baptist Church for lending us a chair from their chapel for Santa to sit in, and to Ken Kirby from Magnatec, Inc. for his support of the Mitten Tree, the Take a Whack at Heart Disease, and general support throughout this project.

My special thanks to Sylvia Osborne, whose telephone will never be the same, for coordinating the Marketplace. The Daily Press Christmas Fund received \$130.00 from the City of Poquoson!

Have a very nice holiday season Poquoson!

Marian Smith
Parade Director

It's a time for new beginnings

By Liz Mendez

It's a new year and a time for beginnings. We at the Poquoson Island Times are proud to be entering our second decade of service to our community. For 10 years, our goal has been to establish the Island Times as *Your* newspaper. Written by, for and about the people of Poquoson, we believe the paper has achieved that goal.

One of the most exciting aspects of publishing a newspaper is hearing from you, and we'd like to encourage you to talk to us. Your letters give

us, and the almost 2,000 families who read the Island Times, valuable insight into your views on local issues.

All you have to do is write to us at the Poquoson Island Times, 499-B Wythe Creek Road, Poquoson, Va. 23662. All letters must include your name, address and telephone number. Letters may be edited for clarity, brevity and propriety.

We'd also like to hear about your church, club and personal doings. Submit photographs and whatever pertinent information about which you think

others would enjoy reading, and we'll happily share it with our readers. Significant birthdays or anniversaries, weddings, recitals, promotions, graduations, club speakers, fund raisers -- in short, anything of special interest to Poquoson people -- tell us about it.

We've had a great first decade, and we look forward to the next...and the next...and the next. We're glad you like us as much as we like you. After all, we're all in Poquoson together!

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Take Pride in Poquoson

Recycling program starts off great

By Bob Kerlinger

Saturday, January 6 was the kick-off of the Poquoson Recycling Center located at the Municipal Pool Parking lot. By 10 a.m. cars, vans, and pick-ups started rolling in. Volunteers for the grand opening included the recycling coordinators for the different groups which will man the center each Saturday on a rotating basis.

Volunteers who braved the rain and mud to get the pro-

gram started included Jerry Dougherty, Bob DeCoudres, Scott Bookwalter, Kerry Knowlton, John Millan, Dan Quinlan, Vernon Krueger, Jonathan Montgomery, John Huber, and Bob Kerlinger.

Between 125 and 150 vehicles came through the first day and the volume of recyclables far exceeded everyone's expectations. There was a real feeling of community spirit as people brought in the materials and chatted with

the volunteers. One man even brought a thermos of hot coffee and paper cups for the volunteers which was much appreciated on a cold, damp day.

The people of Poquoson are to be congratulated for taking "Pride in Poquoson."

See you next Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please don't leave recyclables at other times so the area can be kept attractive.